

Message Text

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PAGE 01 LISBON 03778 221606Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ARA-10 IO-13 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-01 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01
SP-02 SS-15 ICA-11 HA-05 /104 W
-----078886 222107Z /73

R 221404Z MAY 78
FM AMEMBASSY LISBON
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5786
INFO AMEMBASSY KINSHASA
AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
USINT HAVANA
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE LISBON 3778

1.O. 11652: N/A
TAGS: PEPR PO AO
SUBJ: MELO ANTUNES VISIT TO ANGOLA

REF: (A) LISBON 3753 (NOTAL), (B) LISBON 799

SUMMARY: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER AND FORMER FOREIGN
MINISTER MAJOR MELO ANTUNES RETURNED FROM LUANDA MAY 21.
END SUMMARY.

1. ANTUNES TRIP: REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER AND FORMER
FOREIGN MINISTER MAJOR MELO ANTUNES RETURNED FRO LUANDA
MAY 21. ANTUNES MET WITH GPRA PRESIDENT AGOSTINHO NETO AS
AN OFFICIAL REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENT EANES. THE VISIT TOOK
PLACE WHILE MAJOR CANTO E CASTRO, ANOTHER MEMBER OF THE
REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL, WAS IN ZAIRE, ALSO ON A PRESIDENTIAL MISSION.

2. OBSERVATIONS: ON ARRIVAL IN LISBON, ANTUNES SAID
THE GPRA WAS WATCHING THE SHABA SITUATION CLOSELY BUT HAD
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PAGE 02 LISBON 03778 221606Z

NOTHING TO DO WITH THE INVASION. ANTUNES CITED AS PROOF OF
THE GPRA'S GOODWILL ITS AUTHORIZING BELGIAN REFUGEES TO
TRANSIT ANGOLA FOR EVACUATION TO EUROPE. ANTUNES STATED
PRESIDENT NETO "APPEARED SINCERE, SURE OF HIMSELF, PERFECTLY
WELL, IN FULL POSSESSION OF ALL HIS FACILITIES."

3. OPPOSITION: ANTUNES RETURNED TO COMPLAINTS FROM CDS

LEADERS TO WHOSE PARTY THE FOREIGN MINISTER BELONGS, THAT THE GOP WAS FOLLOWING "PARALLEL DIPLOMACY." ANTUNES DEFENDED HIS TRIP BY NOTING THAT HE WAS ACTING AT THE REQUEST OF PRESIDENT EANES AND THAT DIPLOMACY COULD NOT BE THE WORK OF JUST ONE PERSON.

4. ANTUNES'S LONG-PLANNED TRIP WAS A FOLLOW-UP TO HIS JANUARY VISIT TO HAVANA (REFTELS). THE ANTUNES VISIT TO LUANDA UNDERSCORES THE LEVEL OF PRESIDENTIAL INTEREST IN ANGOLA. THE SIMULTANEOUS TRAVEL OF A "MODERATE RIGHTIST" REVOLUTIONARY COUNCIL MEMBER TO ZAIRE AND A "MODERATE LEFTIST" TO ANGOLA ILLUSTRATES

A DESIRE TO APPEAR EVEN-HANDED. GIVEN THE PRESIDENT'S STRONG INTEREST IN IMPROVING RELATIONS WITH ANGOLA, COMPLAINTS OF "PARALLEL DIPLOMACY" ARE UNLIKELY TO DISSUADE HIM FROM FURTHER INITIATIVES DESIGNED TO KEEP HIS CHANNELS OPEN.
BLOOMFIELD

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, VISITS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 may 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978LISBON03778
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: n/a
Expiration:
Film Number: D780215-1098
Format: TEL
From: LISBON
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780534/aaaabcel.tel
Line Count: 79
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 36bd8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION EUR
Original Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: LIMITED OFFICIAL USE
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 apr 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2617895
Secure: OPEN
Status: <DBA CHANGED> VJT 20040924
Subject: MELO ANTUNES VISIT TO ANGOLA
TAGS: PEPR, PO, AO, (ANTUNES, MELO)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/36bd8a99-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014